



October 2004

Future Teachers Conditional Scholarship and Loan Repayment Program

Adoption of Final Rules

Staff recommend that the board adopt final rules for the Future Teachers Conditional Scholarship and Loan Repayment program. A full report was presented at the July 22, 2004 board meeting. In July, the board authorized staff to begin the formal rulemaking process to implement the program changes, as directed by the Legislature in HB 2708.

Staff consulted with many interested parties and incorporated changes to the draft rules prior to beginning the formal rulemaking process. Staff held a formal public comment period and public hearing, but received no requests for changes.

Except for a technical correction, the rules presented for adoption are identical to the proposed rules presented at the July meeting. The proposed rules for adoption are attached.

Background

The program encourages students to become teachers by offering monetary benefits in exchange for service as teachers in Washington public K-12 schools. The 2004 Legislature modified the program in such a way that it can be a flexible vehicle for targeting teacher shortage areas in the state as well as targeting particular kinds of students to become teachers.

In selecting students, the board is to emphasize factors such as superior academic achievement, bilingual ability, and a commitment to teaching in a shortage area. Priority is given to individuals seeking endorsement in selected subject matter shortage areas such as math, science, or special education. For the 2004-2005 academic year, the statute requires that priority also be given to bilingual applicants.

The monetary benefits may be delivered through either a conditional scholarship or a loan repayment. A conditional scholarship is a loan that is forgiven in exchange for service. A loan repayment is the repayment of a portion or all of a student's federal student loans in exchange for teaching service.

Public Comment

Staff consulted widely with interested parties in K-12 education, higher education, the Legislature, and organizations representing communities in need of bilingual teachers. Considerable public comment was received during this period and was incorporated into the proposed rules. A public hearing was held on September 7, 2004. Public comment on the proposed rules was accepted through the close of business September 10, 2004. No public comments requesting changes were received.

Technical Correction

Staff recommend that one technical correction be incorporated into the rules to ensure clarity. The change makes clear that, for fiscal year 2005, bilingual applicants will receive priority. Bilingual applicants do not have to teach in a teacher shortage area in order to receive priority.

The recommended change is to WAC 250-65-110 (3) - Selection of Participants.

(a) Once all initial eligibility criteria are met, the committee will give priority to ~~individuals seeking certification or an additional endorsement in math, science, technology, or special education. For fiscal year 2005, additional priority will be given to such individuals who are also bilingual.~~

(i) Individuals seeking certification or an additional endorsement in math, science, technology, or special education; and

(ii) For fiscal year 2005, individuals who are bilingual.



STATE OF WASHINGTON
HIGHER EDUCATION COORDINATING BOARD

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RESOLUTION NO. 04-24

WHEREAS, The Legislature passed House Bill 2708 revising the Future Teacher Conditional Scholarship and Loan Repayment Program (RCW 28B.102); and

WHEREAS, House Bill 2708 became law on June 10, 2004; and

WHEREAS, The Higher Education Coordinating Board is directed by RCW 28B.102.030 to adopt rules as necessary to implement the program; and

WHEREAS, The board directed staff at the July 22, 2004 meeting to proceed with the process required to adopt permanent rules to implement the new program; and

WHEREAS, Staff solicited feedback from interested parties and incorporated those comments into the proposed rules before beginning the formal rulemaking process; and

WHEREAS, Staff held a public hearing on the proposed rules on September 7, 2004, but received no public comments; and

WHEREAS, The Higher Education Coordinating Board staff recommend a technical correction to the proposed rules to clarify that bilingual applicants do not have to teach in a teacher shortage area in order to receive priority in fiscal year 2005;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, That the Higher Education Coordinating Board adopts Chapter 250-65 WAC as revised.

Adopted:

October 21, 2004

Attest:

Bob Craves, Chair

Gene Colin, Secretary

